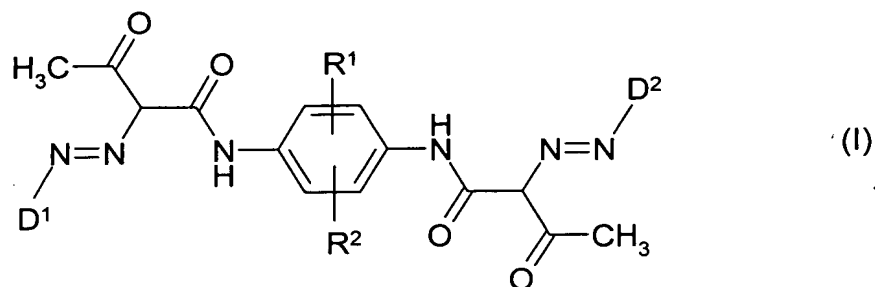


Claims:

- 1) A process for preparing disazo pigments of the formula (I)



or a mixture of said disazo pigments by azo coupling, where

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D^1 and D^2 are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals from the group consisting of halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl, it being possible for the phenyl radical to be substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and said heterocycle being attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

- which comprises subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in organic solvent in the presence of a base from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides or in aqueous-organic solvent at alkali $pH \geq 9$.

2) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or trifluoromethyl.

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3) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocycle is a benzimidazolone, phthalimide, naphthalimide, quinazoline, quinazolinone, quinazolinedione, phthalazine, phthalazinone, phthalazinedione, quinoxaline, quinoxalinone or quinoxalinedione.

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4) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 3, wherein the heterocycles D¹ and D² are unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different radicals from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, nitro, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl or trifluoromethyl.

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5) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, wherein the coupling product is used in the form of a presscake, as granules or as powder.

6) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 5, wherein the coupling product is finished in a suspension containing from 1 to 50% by weight, preferably from 2 to 20% by weight, in particular from 3 to 17.5% by weight of the coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

7) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 6, wherein the organic solvent for the finish is an alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a glycol, glycerol, a polyglycol, an ether, a glycol ether, a ketone, an aliphatic acid amide, a urea derivative, a cyclic carboxamide, an ester of an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid, a nitrile, an aliphatic, aromatic or araliphatic hydrocarbon, an alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, and/or halogen-substituted benzene, an aromatic heterocycle, hexamethylphosphoramide, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone; a sulfone, a sulfoxide; or a mixture of these solvents

8) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 7, wherein the organic solvent for the finish is a C₁-C₆ alcohol, particularly methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert.-butanol or tert.-amyl alcohol, or butyl glycol, dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidone or dimethylsulfoxide, or a mixture thereof.

9) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 8, wherein the aqueous-organic solvent contains from 2.5 to 95% by weight, preferably from 5 to 90% by weight, of organic solvent.

10) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 9, wherein the finish takes place at an alkali pH of greater than 9.5.

11) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 10, wherein the finish is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 250°C, preferably between 15 and 200°C.

12) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 11, wherein the finish is carried out for a time of from 5 minutes to 96 hours.

13) The process as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 12, wherein following a finish at alkali pH an acid is added.